

NEAL S. SALISIAN, SBN 240277
neal.salisian@salisianlee.com
GLENN R. COFFMAN, SBN 305669
glenn.coffman@salisianlee.com
JARED T. DENSEN, SBN 325164
jared.densen@salisianlee.com
SALISIAN | LEE LLP
550 South Hope Street, Suite 750
Los Angeles, California 90071-2924
Telephone: (213) 622-9100
Facsimile: (800) 622-9145

MARISA D. POULOS (SBN 197904)
marisa.poulos@balboacapital.com
BALBOA CAPITAL CORPORATION
575 Anton Boulevard, 12th Floor
Costa Mesa, California 92626
Tel: (949) 399-6303

Attorneys for Plaintiff
AMERIS BANK d/b/a BALBOA CAPITAL CORPORATION

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

AMERIS BANK, a Georgia state-
chartered banking corporation, doing
business as BALBOA CAPITAL
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ZARIZ TRANSPORT INC., a Florida
corporation; and YAAKOV ISRAEL
GUZELGUL, an individual,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:23-cv-02447-JWH(DFMx)

[Assigned to the Hon. John W. Holcomb]

**AMERIS BANK D/B/A BALBOA
CAPITAL CORPORATION'S
MOTION FOR DEFAULT
JUDGMENT AGAINST
DEFENDANTS**

Complaint Filed: December 22, 2023
Trial Date: None

1 TO THE COURT, ALL PARTIES, AND ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

2 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon
3 thereafter as the matter may be heard, in Courtroom 9D of the Ronald Reagan
4 Federal Building and United States Courthouse, located at 411 West 4th Street,
5 Santa Ana, California 92701-4516, the Honorable John W. Holcomb presiding,
6 plaintiff Ameris Bank, doing business as Balboa Capital Corporation (“Plaintiff” or
7 “Balboa”) will, and hereby does, apply for an entry of default judgment pursuant to
8 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 55 and Local Rules 55-1, 55-2, and 55-3,
9 against defendants Zariz Transport Inc., a Florida corporation (“Zariz”) and Yaakov
10 Israel Guzelgul, an individual (“Guzelgul”) (collectively, “Defendants”), for a
11 judgment amount of **\$214,078.05**.

12 PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Balboa seeks a default judgment
13 against Defendants in the total amount of \$214,078.05, as Balboa has established
14 (a) a sum certain due and owing by Defendants to Balboa pursuant to the
15 Equipment Financing Agreement entered into by Defendants and Balboa; (b) that
16 Defendants are not in military service and are neither minors or incompetent
17 persons; and (c) costs and attorneys’ fees are properly awardable.

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1 PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this motion is based on this
2 Notice of Motion, the supporting Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the
3 supporting declarations of Jared T. Densen and Don Ngo, and the exhibits attached
4 thereto, the pleadings and papers filed in this action, and upon such further briefing,
5 authorities, and argument submitted to the Court prior to, or during, the hearing on
6 this matter.

7
8 DATED: June 18, 2024

SALISIAN | LEE LLP

9
10 By: 

Jared T. Densen
Neal S. Salisian
Glenn R. Coffman

11
12
13 Attorneys for Plaintiff
14 AMERIS BANK d/b/a BALBOA CAPITAL
15 CORPORATION
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION AND RELEVANT FACTS

Plaintiff Ameris Bank, a Georgia state-chartered banking corporation, doing business as Balboa Capital Corporation (“Plaintiff” or “Balboa”) submits the instant Motion for Default Judgment against defendants Zariz Transport Inc., a Florida corporation (“Zariz”) and Yaakov Israel Guzelgul, an individual (“Guzelgul”) (collectively, “Defendants”).

A. Equipment Financing Agreement.

This action involves a claim for damages by Balboa against Defendants for the breach of the written Equipment Financing Agreement No. 419188-000 (the “EFA”), and the breach of the corresponding personal guaranty of that agreement. [See Declaration of Don Ngo (“Ngo Decl.”), ¶3, Exh. A.]

Specifically, Balboa, on the one hand, and Zariz and Guzelgul, on the other, entered into the EFA on or about August 26, 2022. [See *id.*] Under the terms of the EFA, Balboa loaned to Zariz the sum of \$168,497.62, in order to finance equipment for its business (the “Collateral”). [See *id.*]

Concurrent with the execution of the EFA, and in order to induce Balboa to enter into the EFA with Zariz, Guzelgul personally guaranteed, in writing, the payment of the then-existing and future indebtedness due and owing to Balboa under the terms of the EFA (the “Guaranty”). [See *id.*, ¶4, Exh. B.] Balboa relied on such the Guaranty to agree to finance the Collateral for Zariz’s business. [See *id.*]

Under the EFA, Zariz was required to make sixty (60) monthly payments of \$3,563.55 beginning on October 24, 2022. [See *id.*, ¶5, Exh. C.] The last payment received by Balboa was credited toward the payment due for May 24, 2023. [See *id.*] Therefore, on June 24, 2023, Zariz breached the EFA, and Guzelgul breached the Guaranty, by failing to make the monthly payment due on that date, and thus, both have remained continuously in default. [See *id.*]

1 At the time of Defendant's default, in addition to late charges in the sum of
2 \$855.26, there remained fifty-two (52) monthly payments in the amount of
3 \$3,563.55, for a total of **\$186,159.86**, due to Balboa. [See *id.*, ¶6.]

4 In addition, based on the amount due of \$186,159.86, Balboa is entitled to
5 prejudgment interest at the statutory rate of ten percent (10%) per annum, from
6 June 24, 2023, the date of breach, to July 19, 2024, the date noticed for the hearing
7 of this Motion for Default Judgment ("Default Motion"), for a total interest amount
8 of **\$19,992.00**, accruing at a rate of **\$51.00 per day**, until the entry of judgment.
9 [See *id.*, ¶7; see also Declaration of Jared T. Densen ("Densen Decl."), ¶¶5-6.]

10 **B. Attorneys' Fees and Costs**

11 Pursuant to Paragraph 20 of the EFA Balboa is entitled to recover its
12 attorneys' fees and costs from Defendant. [See Densen Decl., ¶7.] The amount of
13 reasonable attorneys' fees is fixed by Local Rule 55-3, in the sum of **\$7,323.19** for
14 the EFA. [See *id.*] Balboa has indeed incurred **\$603.00**, in recoverable costs - \$405
15 for filing of the Complaint, \$99.00 for service upon Zariz, and \$99.00 for service
16 upon Guzelgul. [See *id.*, Exh. E.]

17 **C. Default Judgment Motion**

18 Balboa's Default Motion satisfies the procedural requirements of Local Rule
19 55-1 and 55-2, and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b). Balboa filed its
20 Complaint and case-initiating documents on December 22, 2023. [See Dkts. 1-4.]
21 Defendant Zariz was properly served on February 16, 2024, and Defendant
22 Guzelgul was properly served on March 16, 2024, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
23 Procedure 4. [See Dkts. 10, 12.] On April 5, 2024 and June 11, 2024, Balboa filed
24 its Request for Clerk to Enter Default against defendants Zariz and Guzelgul,
25 respectively, ("Default Entry Request"), and the Clerk entered the default against
26 both Defendants or around April 10, 2024 against Zariz, and June 13, 2024 against
27 Guzelgul. [See Dkts. 18, 25.]
28

1 Defendant Zariz is a Florida corporation, and is not a minor, incompetent
2 person, or a person in military service or otherwise exempted from default
3 judgment under the Servicemembers Relief Act of 1940 (“SCRA”). [See Densen
4 Decl., ¶4.] Defendant Guzelgul is not a minor, incompetent person, or a person in
5 military service or otherwise exempted from default judgment under the SCRA.
6 [See *id.*, Exh. D.]

7 Moreover, this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the instant action.
8 The amount in controversy, as alleged in the Complaint and as set forth herein,
9 exceeds \$75,000. [See Dkt. 1.] Plaintiff Balboa was and still operates as a
10 California corporation, with its principal place of business in Orange County,
11 California. [See Dkt. 1, ¶1; *see also* Densen Decl., ¶8.] Balboa is also now a
12 wholly owned subsidiary of Ameris Bank, and operating as a division of Ameris
13 Bank, a Georgia state-chartered banking corporation, and accordingly, Balboa is a
14 citizen of the State of California, as well as the State of Georgia, via its parent
15 company, Ameris Bank. [See *id.*]

16 Defendant Zariz is a Florida corporation, incorporated in the State of Florida
17 and with its principal place of business in Newark, New Jersey. [See *id.*, ¶9, Exh.
18 E.] Guzelgul is a citizen of the State of Florida, and based on information and
19 belief, including the Driver’s License Guzelgul submitted to Balboa, Guzelgul is
20 domiciled in Boca Raton, Florida. [See *id.*] As such, there exists complete
21 diversity amongst the parties. [See *id.*, ¶10.]

22 As set forth below, a default judgment should be entered against the
23 Defendant since Balboa satisfies all seven factors under *Eitel*. Moreover, Balboa
24 has adequately proven its damages. Thus, Balboa respectfully requests that this
25 Court grant its request for a default judgment against Defendant in the amount of
26 **\$214,078.05.**

1 **II. LEGAL ARGUMENT**

2 “When a party against whom a judgment for affirmative relief is sought has
3 failed to plead or otherwise defend,” the Court may enter a judgment of default
4 upon Plaintiff’s application after an entry of default. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 55. Local
5 Rule 55 sets forth the procedural requirements that must be satisfied by a party
6 moving for a default judgment. Balboa’s Motion has satisfied such requirements.

7 Here, Balboa filed its Complaint and case-initiating documents on December
8 22, 2023. [See Dkts. 1-4.] Defendant Zariz was properly served on February 16,
9 2024, and Defendant Guzelgul was properly served on March 16, 2024, pursuant to
10 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4. [See Dkts. 10, 12.] On April 5, 2024 and June
11 11, 2024, Balboa filed its Default Entry Request against defendants Zariz and
12 Guzelgul, respectively, and the Clerk entered the default against both Defendants or
13 around April 10, 2024 against Zariz, and June 13, 2024 against Guzelgul. [See
14 Dkts. 18, 25.]

15 Defendant Zariz is a Florida corporation, and is not a minor, incompetent
16 person, or a person in military service or otherwise exempted from default
17 judgment under the SCRA. [See Densen Decl., ¶4.] Defendant Guzelgul is not a
18 minor, incompetent person, or a person in military service or otherwise exempted
19 from default judgment under the SCRA. [See *id.*, Exh. D.]

20 The Ninth Circuit follow the seven *Eitel* factors in deciding whether to enter
21 a default judgment:

22 (1) the possibility of prejudice to the plaintiff; (2) the merits
23 of plaintiff’s substantive claim; (3) the sufficiency of the
24 complaint; (4) the sum of money at stake in the action; (5)
25 the possibility of a dispute concerning material facts; (6)
whether the default was due to excusable neglect; and (7)
the strong policy underlying the Federal Rules of Civil
Procedure favoring decisions on the merits.

26 *Eitel v. McCool*, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986). A plaintiff need not
27 prove that all seven factors weigh in its favor, as courts *may* consider these factors
28 in their discretion on whether to enter a default judgment. *See id.*

1 Here, the underlying facts in this action show that all seven of the *Eitel*
2 factors weigh in Balboa's favor, and thus, supports the entry of default judgment.

3 **A. Plaintiff Will Be Highly Prejudiced If Its Default Judgment**
4 **Motion Is Denied.**

5 A situation in which a plaintiff will be without any other recourse or recovery
6 should its default judgment application be denied qualifies as prejudice. *See*
7 *PepsiCo, Inc. v. Cal. Sec. Cans*, 238 F. Supp. 2d 1172, 1177 (C.D. Cal. 2002).

8 Here, Balboa has submitted its Motion for Default Judgment as a last resort
9 due to Defendant's deliberate unwillingness to accept responsibility for its actions
10 or even acknowledge Balboa's allegations.

11 The fact remains that Balboa, pursuant to the EFA, financed the Collateral
12 for Defendants, with Defendants agreeing to make sixty (60) monthly payments of
13 \$3,563.55, for which fifty-two (52) monthly payments, for a total of **\$186,159.86**,
14 still remained due to Balboa at the time of Defendants' default. [*See* Ngo Decl.,
15 ¶¶5-6, Exh. C.] Defendants have since failed to make further payments. [*See id.*]

16 Balboa has made demands for its monies from Defendant and under the
17 Guaranty, all of which Defendants have failed to pay back. [*See id.*, ¶8.]

18 Balboa filed its Complaint in this action to recover the monies owed on it,
19 but Defendants have been unwilling to participate in, or otherwise acknowledge, the
20 litigation. Balboa's Motion for Default Judgment is its final option for an attempt
21 at recovery, and without the Court granting the default judgment, Balboa will be
22 prejudiced and be denied its right to a judicial resolution of its presented claims.
23 *See PepsiCo*, 238 F.Supp.2d at 1177.

24 Moreover, if Balboa's Motion for Default Judgment is denied, it will suffer a
25 significant loss due to no fault of its own, and Defendants will obtain a significant
26 windfall of over \$186,159.86. Not only will the deliberate nonaction by
27 Defendants and their continued stalling techniques be unjustly rewarded, but
28

1 Balboa will effectively be penalized for its procedurally proper demands for the
2 return of its monies available through the court system's proper channels.

3 Balboa will be substantially prejudiced, especially with no other available
4 recourse, should its Motion for Default Judgment be denied, and thus, further
5 supports the Default Judgment against Defendants to be granted by this Court.

6 **B. Plaintiff Has A High Likelihood Of Success On The Merits Of Its**
7 **Substantive Claims And Its Complaint Is Sufficiently Pled.**

8 "The general rule of law is that upon default[,] the factual allegations of the
9 complaint, except those relating to the amount of damages, will be taken as true."
10 *Geddes v. United Fin. Group*, 559 F.2d 557, 560 (9th Cir. 1977). Courts often
11 consider the second (merits of the claim) and third (sufficiency of the complaint)
12 factors under *Eitel* together. *See PepsiCo*, 238 F.Supp.2d at 1177.

13 The elements for a breach of contract are: (1) the existence of a contract, (2)
14 performance by the plaintiff of its obligations under the contract, (3) breach of the
15 contract by the defendant, and (4) resulting damages proximately caused by the
16 defendant's breach of contract. *Reichert v. Gen. Ins. Co.*, 68 Cal.2d 822, 830
17 (1968); *Acoustics, Inc. v. Trepte Constr. Co.*, 14 Cal.App.3d 887, 916 (1971); *see*
18 *also* Civ. Code §§ 1620, 3300; and RESTATEMENT 2d. CONTRACTS § 235(2).

19 Here, all elements are met. Specifically, Balboa, on the one hand, and Zariz
20 and Guzelgul, on the other, entered into the EFA, under which Balboa loaned to
21 Zariz the sum of \$168,497.62, in order to finance the Collateral for its business.
22 [See Ngo Decl., ¶3, Exh. A.]

23 Concurrent with the execution of the EFA, and in order to induce Balboa to
24 enter into the EFA with Zariz, Guzelgul personally guaranteed, in writing, the
25 payment of the then-existing and future indebtedness due and owing to Balboa
26 under the terms of the EFA (the "Guaranty"). [See *id.*, ¶4, Exh. B.] Balboa relied
27 on such the Guaranty to agree to finance the Collateral for Zariz's business. [See
28 *id.*]

1 Under the EFA, Zariz was required to make sixty (60) monthly payments of
2 \$3,563.55 beginning on October 24, 2022. [See *id.*, ¶5, Exh. C.] The last payment
3 received by Balboa was credited toward the payment due for May 24, 2023. [See
4 *id.*] Therefore, on June 24, 2023, Zariz breached the EFA, and Guzelgul breached
5 the Guaranty, by failing to make the monthly payment due on that date, and thus,
6 both have remained continuously in default. [See *id.*]

7 At the time of Defendant's default, in addition to late charges in the sum of
8 \$855.26, there remained fifty-two (52) monthly payments in the amount of
9 \$3,563.55, for a total of **\$186,159.86**, due to Balboa. [See *id.*, ¶6.]

10 There is no doubt, and it cannot be disputed that: (1) Balboa and Defendants
11 entered into the EFA; (2) Guzelgul personally guaranteed, in writing, the payment
12 of the then-existing and future indebtedness due and owing to Balboa under the
13 terms of the EFA; (3) Zariz received the loan in order to finance the Collateral for
14 its business; (4) Defendants ceased making payments pursuant to the EFA; and (5)
15 Balboa has suffered and continues to suffer damages due to Defendant's continued
16 nonpayment. Thus, Balboa has a substantially high likelihood in succeeding on the
17 merits of its claims. In fact, no known defenses exist to any of the material facts.

18 **C. The Sum Of Money At Stake Favors An Entry Of A Default**
19 **Judgment Against Defendant.**

20 As a general rule, courts factor the sum of money at stake on a case-by-case
21 basis, and in relation to the other factors influencing whether to enter default
22 judgment. See *Eitel*, 782 F.2d at 1472 (default judgment was denied where plaintiff
23 was seeking \$3 million in damages *and* the parties disputed material facts). This
24 requires the court to assess whether the recovery sought is proportional to the harm
25 caused by defendant's conduct. See *Walters v. Statewide Concrete Barrier, Inc.*,
26 No. C 04-2559 JSW, 2006 WL 2527776, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 2006) (“[i]f the
27 sum of money at issue is reasonably proportionate to the harm caused by the
28 defendant's actions, then default judgment is warranted”).

1 In *Penpower Tech, Ltd. v. S.P.C. Tech.*, 627 F. Supp. 2d 1083 (N.D. Cal.
2 2008), despite reasoning that plaintiff's request for \$677,075.37 in treble damages,
3 \$500,000.00 in punitive damages, \$100,000.00 in statutory damages, attorneys'
4 fees of \$16,497.00, and costs of \$2,005.00, were "speculative" and weighed against
5 default judgment, the court nevertheless granted plaintiff's default judgment.

6 Here, Balboa seeks compensatory damages pursuant to the EFA in the
7 amount of **\$186,159.86**; prejudgment interest from June 24, 2023, the date of
8 breach, to July 19, 2024, the date noticed for the hearing of this Default Motion, in
9 the amount of **\$19,992.00**, plus **\$51.00 per day** until the entry of judgment;
10 statutory attorneys' fees, in the amount of **\$7,323.19**; and costs in the amount of
11 **\$603.00**. [See Densen Decl., ¶¶5-7, Exh. E.] The damages sought are
12 contractually-based and arise out of the clear terms and obligations of the EFA; the
13 prejudgment interest was calculated at the statutory rate of ten percent (10%) per
14 annum; and the attorneys' fees requested are fixed by Local Rule 55-3. [See *id.*,
15 ¶7.]

16 As such, the sum of money sought is reasonable and far from speculative. It
17 is also substantially less than the \$3 million sought in *Eitel*, in which this sum, and
18 other factors, weighed in the favor of denying default judgment. And it is also
19 substantially less than the roughly \$1.3 million sought in *Penpower Tech*, in which
20 default judgment was granted, despite the sum of money being deemed
21 "speculative."

22 Thus, the sum of money sought in this action weighs in the favor of granting
23 default judgment, especially in the light of the other seven *Eitel* factors, and due to
24 the certainty and reasonableness of the sum.

25 **D. There Are No Material Facts That Are Reasonably In Dispute.**

26 "The general rule of law is that upon default[,], the factual allegations of the
27 complaint, except those relating to the amount of damages, will be taken as true."
28 See *Geddes, supra*, 559 F.2d at 560. Where a plaintiff's complaint is well-pleaded

1 and the defendants make no effort to properly respond, the likelihood of disputed
2 facts is very low. *See Landstar Ranger, Inc. v. Parth Enters, Inc.*, 725 F.Supp.2d
3 916, 921 (C.D. Cal. 2010).

4 As thoroughly detailed in Section II.B., *supra*, there are no material facts that
5 are reasonably in dispute.

6 Here, specifically, Balboa, on the one hand, and Zariz and Guzelgul, on the
7 other, entered into the EFA on or about August 26, 2022. [See Ngo Decl., ¶3, Exh.
8 A.] Under the terms of the EFA, Balboa loaned to Zariz the sum of \$168,497.62, in
9 order to finance the Collateral for its business. [See *id.*]

10 Concurrent with the execution of the EFA, and in order to induce Balboa to
11 enter into the EFA with Zariz, Guzelgul personally guaranteed, in writing, the
12 payment of the then-existing and future indebtedness due and owing to Balboa
13 under the terms of the EFA (the “Guaranty”). [See *id.*, ¶4, Exh. B.] Balboa relied
14 on such the Guaranty to agree to finance the Collateral for Zariz’s business. [See
15 *id.*]

16 Under the EFA, Zariz was required to make sixty (60) monthly payments of
17 \$3,563.55 beginning on October 24, 2022. [See *id.*, ¶5, Exh. C.] The last payment
18 received by Balboa was credited toward the payment due for May 24, 2023. [See
19 *id.*] Therefore, on June 24, 2023, Zariz breached the EFA, and Guzelgul breached
20 the Guaranty, by failing to make the monthly payment due on that date, and thus,
21 both have remained continuously in default. [See *id.*]

22 At the time of Defendant’s default, in addition to late charges in the sum of
23 \$855.26, there remained fifty-two (52) monthly payments in the amount of
24 \$3,563.55, for a total of **\$186,159.86**, due to Balboa. [See *id.*, ¶6.]

25 Defendant cannot dispute any of the facts in any way or make any reasonable
26 arguments surrounding any of the material facts in this action. If anything,
27 Defendant’s refusal to participate in, or even acknowledge the litigation, is evidence
28 that no such defense exists.

1 **E. Defendants’ Defaults Are Not The Result Of Excusable Neglect.**

2 Excusable neglect is not found where a defendant who was properly served
3 simply ignored the deadline to respond. *See NewGen, LLC v. Safe Cig, LLC*, 804
4 F.3d 606, 616 (9th Cir. 2016) (adding that defendant’s counsel contacting plaintiff’s
5 counsel after default had been entered did not constitute to “excusable neglect”). In
6 fact, courts have required some showing of good faith by the defaulted defendant to
7 constitute “excusable neglect.” *See Eitel*, 782 F.2d at 1471-72 (defendant’s failure
8 to answer was held to be excusable neglect in light of ongoing settlement
9 negotiations); *Draper v. Coombs*, 792 F.2d 915, 924 (9th Cir. 1986) (finding
10 excusable neglect where defendant filed an answer past the deadline and on the
11 same day that the motion for default judgment was filed); *O’Connor v. State of*
12 *Nevada*, 27 F.3d 357, 364 (9th Cir. 1994) (excusable neglect was found where
13 defendant has good faith of a timely answer); *Educational Serv., Inc. v. Maryland*
14 *State Board for Higher Education*, 710 F.2d 170, 176 (4th Cir. 1983) (excusable
15 neglect found where defendant had appeared in the action and opposed a request for
16 a preliminary injunction in which the party had set forth its defenses); *McKnight v.*
17 *Webster*, 499 F.Supp. 420, 424 (E.D. PA 1980) (excusable neglect found where
18 defendant sought an extension of time to respond, but a default judgment was
19 sought in the interim).

20 Where the defendants “were properly served with the Complaint, the notice
21 for the entry of default, as well as documents in support of the instant [default
22 judgment application],” favors this factor for the entry of default judgment. *See*
23 *Shanghai Automation Instrument Co. Ltd. v. Kuei*, 194 F.Supp.2d 995, 1005 (N.D.
24 Cal. 2001).

25 Here, Defendants failed to make any showing whatsoever that their
26 unwillingness to participate in the litigation stemmed from, or was in any way due
27 to, excusable neglect. Defendant Zariz was properly served by personal service
28 through Gregory Mitchell as an employee authorized to accept service from Lorium

1 PLLC as Authorized Agent for Service of Process, and Defendant Guzelgul was
2 properly served via substituted service by leaving copies with Chana Guelguz (aka
3 Chana Guzelgul) as the wife/co-occupant of defendant Guzelgul. [See Dkts. 12,
4 14.]

5 Further, Defendants were additionally served at the same address thereafter
6 with the Default Entry Requests. [See Dkt. 15, 21.] Defendants have not yet made
7 any appearance in the action, and thus, have not made any effort to answer, defend,
8 or otherwise participate, in this action.

9 As detailed above, courts have found for excusable neglect only in cases in
10 which a defendant makes good faith showing that the defendant attempts to
11 participate in the litigation to address and defend the allegations set forth against the
12 defendant. Declining to respond to a complaint after proper service (even in the
13 case where defendant's counsel contacts plaintiff's counsel after the entry of
14 default), does not warrant a finding of excusable neglect. *See NewGen*, 804 F.3d at
15 616.

16 Here, Defendants have failed to acknowledge their wrongdoings and the
17 allegations they face, even in the slightest degree. Instead, Defendants have
18 blatantly ignored Balboa's Complaint and all other papers filed thereafter. Rather,
19 Defendants' course of action in response to Balboa's Complaint, or the apparent
20 lack thereof, is intentional, and thus, would not constitute excusable neglect.

21 **F. Policy Concerns Favor Default Judgment In This Matter.**

22 Although courts have expressed that as a general rule, policy favors decisions
23 on the merits, cases should be decided on its merits only when *reasonably possible*.
24 *See Pena v. Seguros La Comercia, S.A.*, 770 F.2d 811, 814 (9th Cir. 1985)
25 (emphasis added). The policy preference to decide a case on its merits is not
26 dispositive, and thus, does not preclude a court from granting a default judgment.
27 *See Penpower Tech, Ltd.*, 627 F.Supp.2d at 1093 (defendants' failure to respond to
28 a Complaint makes a case decision on its merits impractical, if not, impossible).

1 Here, even the policy concerns to decide a case on its merits favor Balboa to
2 grant Balboa's request for a default judgment. As detailed in II.E., *supra*,
3 Defendant has made it abundantly clear that they will not participate in this
4 litigation, or even acknowledge the instant action. Defendant has deliberately
5 chosen a course of action to simply ignore Balboa and its claims against them,
6 including their own liability. Thus, the Court's decision will not be based on the
7 merits of this case since there is no reasonable possibility at this point given
8 Defendant's refusal to participate in this litigation.

9 Moreover, policy concerns certainly do not weigh in favor of rewarding
10 Defendant for their unwillingness to account for their liability to Balboa, and the
11 extremely prejudicial windfall they would receive should their deliberate silence
12 and stalling techniques be rewarded, at Balboa's expense. *See* Section II.A., *supra*.

13 **G. Plaintiff Has Proven Its Damages.**

14 Under the EFA, Zariz was required to make sixty (60) monthly payments of
15 \$3,563.55 beginning on October 24, 2022. [*See id.*, ¶5, Exh. C.] The last payment
16 received by Balboa was credited toward the payment due for May 24, 2023. [*See*
17 *id.*] Therefore, on June 24, 2023, Zariz breached the EFA, and Guzelgul breached
18 the Guaranty, by failing to make the monthly payment due on that date, and thus,
19 both have remained continuously in default. [*See id.*]

20 At the time of Defendant's default, in addition to late charges in the sum of
21 \$855.26, there remained fifty-two (52) monthly payments in the amount of
22 \$3,563.55, for a total of **\$186,159.86**, due to Balboa. [*See id.*, ¶6.]

23 In addition, based on the amount due of \$186,159.86, Balboa is entitled to
24 prejudgment interest at the statutory rate of ten percent (10%) per annum, from
25 June 24, 2023, the date of breach, to July 19, 2024, the date noticed for the hearing
26 of this Default Motion, for a total interest amount of **\$19,992.00**, accruing at a rate
27 of **\$51.00 per day**, until the entry of judgment. [*See id.*, ¶7; *see also* Densen Decl.,
28 ¶¶5-6.]

Pursuant to Paragraph 20 of the EFA, Balboa is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs from Defendant. [See Densen Decl., ¶7.] The amount of reasonable attorneys' fees is fixed by Local Rule 55-3, in the sum of **\$7,323.19**. [See *id.*] Balboa has indeed incurred **\$603.00** in recoverable costs. [See *id.*, Exh. E.]

Altogether, this totals out to **\$214,078.05** (as of July 19, 2024), calculated as follows:

- Amount owed:	\$ 186,159.86
- Prejudgment Interest:	\$ 19,992.00
- Attorneys' Fees:	\$ 7,323.19
- Recoverable Costs:	\$ 603.00
<hr/>	
- Total	\$ <u>214,078.05</u>

III. CONCLUSION

Based on Balboa's Complaint, Default Judgment Motion, and all supporting papers, Balboa respectfully requests that the Court grant its Default Judgment Motion against Defendants, in the total amount of **\$214,078.05**.

DATE: June 18, 2024

SALISIAN | LEE LLP

By: 

Jared T. Densen
Neal S. Salisian
Glenn R. Coffman

Attorneys for Plaintiff
AMERIS BANK d/b/a BALBOA CAPITAL
CORPORATION